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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 July 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued)

Mr. OULIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that had his delegation been present at the previous meeting, when the Council adopted draft resolutions II and III contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1992/24), it would have voted in favour of them.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (continued)

Report of the Social Committee (E/1992/106)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its attention to the report of the Social Committee on social development questions (E/1992/106). In paragraphs 34 and 35 of the report, six draft resolutions and three draft decisions were recommended for adoption by the Council. The texts of draft resolutions I through III and draft decision I were contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1992/30, chap. I).

Draft resolutions I to V

Draft resolutions I to V were adopted.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), noting that no final estimate of the programme budget implications of draft resolutions I and III had been given, said that such estimates should be deferred only on an exceptional basis. His delegation would reserve its final approval of the relevant programme budget implications until the report of the secretariat was available; its participation in the adoption of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was provisional and would be reviewed during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Draft resolution VI

Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the resolution's co-sponsors for including some of the concerns it had raised in informal consultations, but noted that other points of equal importance had been omitted.

(Mr. Martin, United Kingdom)

Specifically, there seemed to be a reluctance to make any reference to the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the preparations for the proposed world summit on social development. His delegation believed that the NGO community, which was often much closer to the grass roots, had an important role to play and must be involved at an early stage if the summit was to reach meaningful conclusions.

His delegation had been surprised at the insistence of the co-sponsors that the Council should recommend the convening of the summit without giving due consideration to the objectives of the summit and its agenda; those issues should be thoroughly discussed at the coming session of the General Assembly. His delegation would place particular emphasis on the need for a judicious mix of market efficiency and social responsibility, and would also emphasize the need to create a judicious balance between public and private sector roles; such a balance was essential to avoid inefficient government intervention in productive processes, such as agriculture and industry, coupled with inadequate spending on social services, which should be its primary responsibility. Finally, his delegation would argue that the proposed summit must not create overlaps and duplication with other activities of the United Nations system.

Mr. SRIVHOK (Observer for Thailand) said that his delegation would like to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Draft resolution VI was adopted.

Mr. SCHUTTE (Germany) noted, for the record, that his delegation had made its position on draft resolution VI quite clear when the text was adopted in the Social Committee.

Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile) thanked the nearly 120 countries which had joined Chile in sponsoring the draft resolution. That record number of sponsors was an indication of the political will that the summit represented. The work yet to be done was daunting. The political decision had been made, but the General Assembly must still supply a concise agenda of central themes to ensure the political and operational success of the summit, as well as an efficient preparatory process embodying the necessary political leadership.

The decision just taken had four significant implications. First, by placing the human being at the heart of the United Nations, it could lead to

(Mr. Somavia, Chile)

practical decisions to reduce poverty and increase employment in the world, thus sending a message of hope to all citizens. Second, it would help modify the widespread impression that the United Nations true political priority was the problems of peace and security dealt with by the Security Council; its message was that each one of the 40,000 children that died daily from malnutrition and disease was as important as each person killed in armed conflict. Third, the decision recognized that all societies faced worrisome social problems, though they were immensely more serious in the developing world. And finally, the decision showed the need to supplement the advances made in the area of human rights, democracy and market liberalization with an enhancement of people's quality of life, a true social development, considered as important as economic development.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, should the General Assembly take positive action on the convening of the world summit for social development, the initiative should be taken up by the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development at their regular 1993 sessions.

Draft decisions I to III

Draft decisions I to III were adopted.

NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

Report of the Social Committee (E/1992/107)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to turn its attention to the report of the Social Committee on narcotic drugs (E/1992/107). In paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report, three draft resolutions and three draft decisions were recommended for adoption by the Council. The texts of the draft resolutions and draft decisions could be found in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1992/25).

Draft resolutions I and III

Draft resolutions I and III were adopted.

Draft resolution II

Ms. FENG Cui (China) said that her delegation appreciated the efforts being made to further strengthen drug control, but could not agree to paragraph 6 of draft resolution II categorizing methyl ethyl ketone, toluene,

(Ms. Feng Cui, China)

potassium permanganate, sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid as controlled chemicals. Drug control efforts should be pragmatic and should draw a clear distinction between drug abuse and legitimate uses of chemicals such as these solvents, oxidants and inorganic acids, which were in common and legal industrial use. Moreover, account should be taken of the differing levels of industrial development in different countries and particularly of the realities and interests of the developing countries. The risk of diversion of small amounts of the listed chemicals for illicit use should not necessitate restrictions on their legal use. Accordingly, her delegation wished the record to show that it had a reservation with respect to paragraph 6 of the resolution.

Ms. MEHTA (India) noted that her delegation had abstained in the vote on operative paragraph 6 of the resolution in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and continued to have concerns in that regard. In particular, it felt that subparagraphs (d) and (e) went further than the obligations contracted under the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Putting in place the requisite regulatory mechanisms might involve both excessive cost and logistical problems, and the mechanisms could also have adverse implications for legitimate trade.

She reaffirmed that India was fulfilling its obligations under the Convention and said that a suitable scheme for controlling and monitoring the diversion of essential chemicals was at an advanced stage of preparation.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) reiterated her delegation's full support for the draft resolution but also the position it had taken during the meeting in Vienna, opposing the inclusion in the annex to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, under paragraph 6 of the resolution, of potassium permanganate, hydrochloric acid and sulphuric acid, as these substances were in extensive licit use in various industries and, in any event, cocaine, in whose manufacture they were used, was not and never had been widely abused in the Philippines.

Draft resolution II was adopted.

Draft decisions I to III

Draft decisions I to III were adopted.

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

Reports of the Economic Committee (E/1992/109/Add.2-Add.4)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on food and agricultural development and prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (E/1992/109/Add.2). In paragraphs 22 and 23 of the report, three draft resolutions and one draft decision were recommended for adoption by the Council.

Draft resolutions I to III and the draft decision were adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on international cooperation in tax matters, transnational corporations and consumer protection (E/1992/109/Add.3). In paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report, three draft resolutions and two draft decisions were recommended for adoption by the Council. The texts of the draft resolutions and of draft decision I were contained in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations (E/1992/26/Add.1).

Draft resolutions I to III

Draft resolutions I to III were adopted.

Draft decisions I and II

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

The PRESIDENT then drew attention to two draft decisions contained respectively in paragraphs 6 and 22 of the report of the Economic Committee. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt them.

The draft decisions contained in paragraphs 6 and 22 of the report were adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on the international conference on population and development (E/1992/109/Add.4), paragraph 9 of which contained a draft resolution which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences for Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (E/1992/109/Add.5), paragraph 5 of which contained a draft decision which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council.

The draft decision was adopted.

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER (continued)

Report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/111)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution and draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraphs 8 and 9 respectively of the report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/111).

The draft resolution and draft decision were adopted.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (continued)

Report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/112)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 6 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/112).

The draft decision was adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

Draft resolution on review of the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit (E/1992/L.30)

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He announced that Italy, Norway and Tunisia had joined the sponsors. He noted that consensus had been reached on the draft resolution during informal consultations following the addition of two amendments. In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "further" should be inserted after the word "considering", and in paragraph 2 the phrase "within existing resources" should be inserted after "appropriate measures".

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-President, said that the phrase agreed during informal consultations was "to the extent possible within existing resources".

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that another amendment had been agreed, namely that the words "to the extent possible within existing resources" should be inserted in paragraph 5 after the word "consider".

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended.

It was so decided.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolution on activities of the United Nations system in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (E/1992/L.34)

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He also announced that Switzerland had been inadvertently omitted from the list of original sponsors of the draft resolution and that Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Turkey had subsequently joined the sponsors.

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A MODALITY IN THE FORMULATION, PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

Draft resolution on technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1992/L.29 and L.39)

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-President, introducing draft resolution E/1992/L.39, which he was submitting on the basis of the informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1992/L.29, drew attention to a minor drafting change to paragraph 7 and said that in paragraph 8 the words "stated national policies and measures favourable to the" should be deleted. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that there were no programme budget implications. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.29 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft decision on summary records of sessional committees, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (E/1992/L.36)

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft decision had no programme budget implications. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (E/1992/L.31)

The PRESIDENT, after noting that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications, announced that Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Suriname had joined the sponsors.

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-President, reporting on the results of the informal consultations on the draft resolution, noted that in paragraph 2 the words "report to" should be replaced by the word "inform". He hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution, as orally amended.

It was so decided.

Mr. MAHMOUD (Observer for Lebanon) expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Council for the solidarity it had shown towards his country by adopting the draft resolution without a vote.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.